



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T. Gross, et al.

Serial No.: 10/027,681

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: SUTURE TRIMMER

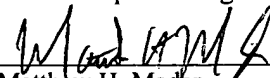
Attorney Docket No.: 6891.US.O1

Art Unit: 3731

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date of Deposit: August 18, 2003

 8/18/03
Matthew H. Mader Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(i), the following is a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood, by applicant's attorney, of each patent, publication, or other information listed that is not in the English language.

DE 9112301.1 appears to show an endoscopic suturing device.

DE 9214580.9 appears to show a device for minimally invasive surgical procedures.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

The Commissioner also is authorized to charge our Deposit Account any additional fees (or credit any over payments) that may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 in association with this communication for which full payment has not been tendered.



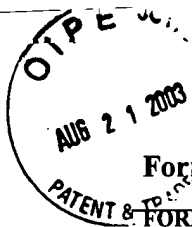
ABBOTT LABORATORIES
Telephone: (847) 938-5386
Facsimile: (847) 938-2623

Respectfully submitted,
T. Gross, et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian R. Woodworth'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn across it.

Brian R. Woodworth
Registration No. 33,137
Attorney for Applicants

Please direct all telephone inquiries to:
Joseph A. Twarowski, Reg. No. 42,191
(650) 474-3326



DATE: August 18, 2003

SHEET 1 of 2

Form PTO - 1449 (Modified)

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
(Modified) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEINFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

(37 CFR 1.98 (b))

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

6891.US.O1

SERIAL NO.

10/027,681

APPLICANT(S)

T. Gross, et al

FILING DATE

December 21, 2001

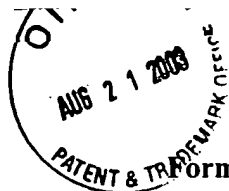
GROUP

3731

U.S.PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	INVENTOR	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	3,752,516	08/14/1973	Mumma			12/07/1971
	AB	4,602,635	07/29/1986	Mulhollan			11/14/1983
	AC	4,641,652	02/10/1987	Hatterer			04/10/1985
	AD	4,961,741	10/09/1990	Hayhurst			01/08/1990
	AE	5,133,723	07/28/1992	Li			07/03/1991
	AF	5,269,791	12/14/1993	Mayzels			10/09/1992
	AG	5,292,327	03/08/1994	Dodd			10/08/1992
	AH	5,342,459	08/30/1994	Klemp, et al.			03/18/1993
	AI	5,403,330	04/04/1995	Tuason			07/17/1992
	AJ	5,405,351	04/11/1995	Kinet			11/12/1993
	AK	5,423,837	06/13/1995	Mericle			12/14/1993
	AL	5,549,618	08/27/1996	Fleenor			02/21/1995
	AM	5,643,289	07/01/1997	Sauer, et al.			08/16/1995
	AN	5,746,752	05/05/1998	Burkhart			11/07/1996
	AO	5,860,993	01/19/1999	Thompson			09/25/1996
	AP	6,045,570	04/04/2000	Epstein			09/25/1998
	AQ	6,077,279	06/20/2000	Kontos			05/08/1998
	AR	6,254,620	07/03/2001	Koh			02/06/1998
	AS	US 2002/0123758		Bachman			03/02/2001
	AT	US 2002/0087178		Nobles			08/27/2001

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DATE: August 18, 2003 SHEET 2 of 2

Form PTO - 1449 (Modified)

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Modified) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR 1.98 (b))	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 6891.US.O1	SERIAL NO. 10/027,681
	APPLICANT(S) T. Gross, et al	
	FILING DATE December 21, 2001	GROUP 3731

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLIC- ATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANS- LATION	
							YES	NO
	AU	DE 9112301	01/09/1992	Germany				X
	AV	DE 9214580	04/14/1994	Germany				X
	AW	02/15795	08/27/2001	WO				
	AX	00/69342	11/23/2000	WO				
	AY	94/08515	04/28/1994	WO				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)

	AZ	PCT/US02/39151 International Search Report
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.		

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above are the following:

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. Form PTO-1449 (2 pages, in duplicate)
3. References Cited in Form PTO-1449 (26 References)
4. Return Receipt Postcard

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional Filing Fees required under 37 CFR §1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment had not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 01-0025.



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